

VERTIGO



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**SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS**

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FABLES



The Story So Far:

Armed Revolution is sweeping through the Farm Fabletown, and Rose Red has joined the revolutionaries. Snow White, still loyal to the old order, spent all of one night and the following day on the run, in the company of Reynard the Fox. Shere Khan, the voracious Bengal tiger from the pages of *The Jungle Book*, tracked them cross country, quickly disposed of the fox and then tried to kill Snow. But she ended up killing Shere Khan and then went on to find the missing Weyland Smith, locked away in a remote cave, past the valley of the Big Sleepers. Just then a company of revolutionaries arrived, led by none other than Rose Red.

ROSE, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMES AGAINST FABLEKIND.

Warlord of the Flies

Part Four of Animal Farm

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WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT ARRESTING HER? SHOOT THE OPPRESSOR!

THAT WASN'T OUR DEAL, GOLDBLOCKS. MY CONDITION FOR JOINING YOU WAS THAT YOU LET SNOW WHITE LIVE-- AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO STAND TRIAL.

WE DON'T HAVE **TIME** FOR SHOW TRIALS NOW. AND WE CAN'T LEAVE HER FREE TO CONTINUE TO SOW HER **MISCHIEF** AMONG THE LOYALIST SCUM. PUT A BULLET IN HER **HEAD** SO WE CAN GET ON WITH OUR GLORIOUS WORK.



OR, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE **STOMACH** FOR IT, STAND ASIDE AND I'LL DO IT.

FORGET IT, GIRLY. WE HAD A **DEAL**.



YES, WE DID. AND WE **STILL** DO. BUT GOLDY'S RIGHT IN THAT WE **DON'T** HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW.

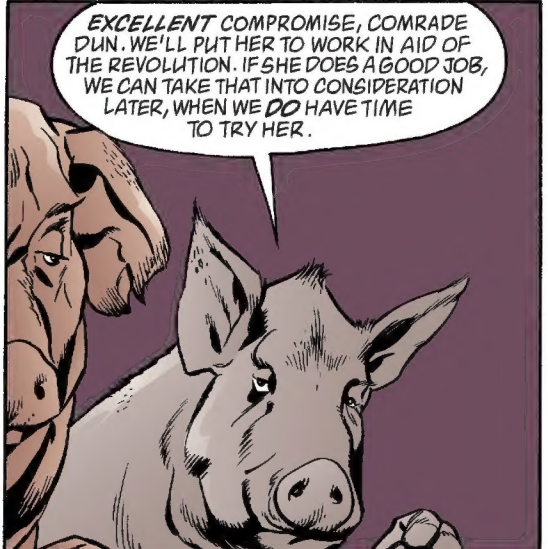
I AGREE. WE'VE YET TO CEMENT OUR CONTROL OVER THE FARM, MUCH LESS IMPLEMENT A TAKEOVER OF THE CITY FABLETOWN.



WE'LL CHAIN UP SNOW WHITE HERE, ALONGSIDE WEYLAND SMITH, AND SHE CAN HELP HIM FINISH THE WEAPONS CONVERSIONS.



EXCELLENT COMPROMISE, COMRADE DUN. WE'LL PUT HER TO WORK IN AID OF THE REVOLUTION. IF SHE DOES A GOOD JOB, WE CAN TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION LATER, WHEN WE **DO** HAVE TIME TO TRY HER.





DOES THAT SUIT EVERYONE?

TANG!



MAKE SURE IT'S SET DEEP. IF SHE GETS AWAY AGAIN, HEADS WILL ROLL.

TANG!



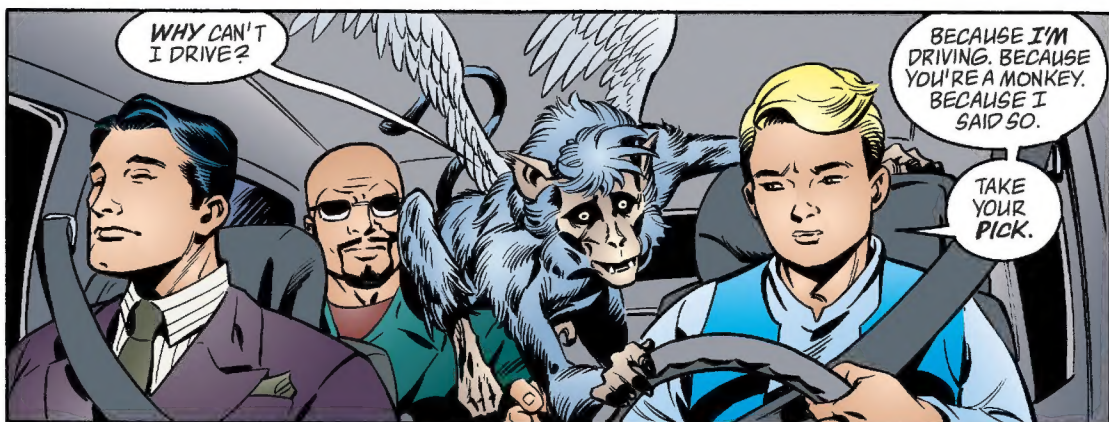
ROSE, HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED IN THIS?

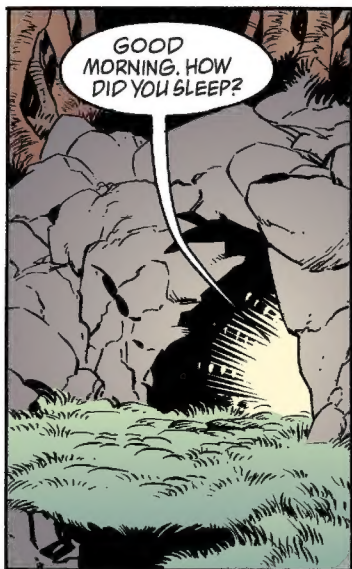
HOW CAN I NOT? THE FARM FABLES' GRIEVANCES ARE AUTHENTIC, AND LONG OVERDUE FOR REDRESS.



"THE REVOLUTION WAS INEVITABLE, SNOW. AND, FOR ONCE, I PLAN TO BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THINGS."

"LET'S MOVE OUT, PEOPLE. WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE NOON ASSEMBLY OF THE PROLETARIAT."





GOOD MORNING. HOW DID YOU SLEEP?



OKAY, I GUESS.

HOW LONG WAS I OUT?



ABOUT SIX HOURS I THINK. I'M NOT SURE. THEY DON'T LET ME HAVE A CLOCK IN HERE.

READY TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, WEYLAND?



THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL. I WENT TO SLEEP ONE NIGHT, IN MY BED IN THE FARMHOUSE, AND WOKE UP CHAINED HERE, FORCED TO CONVERT THESE WEAPONS.

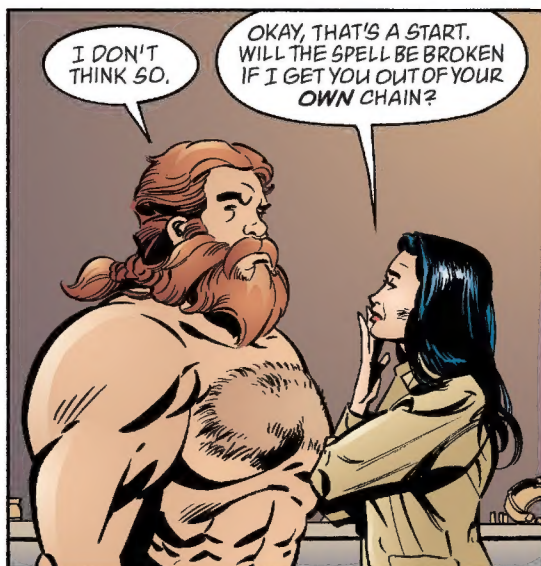


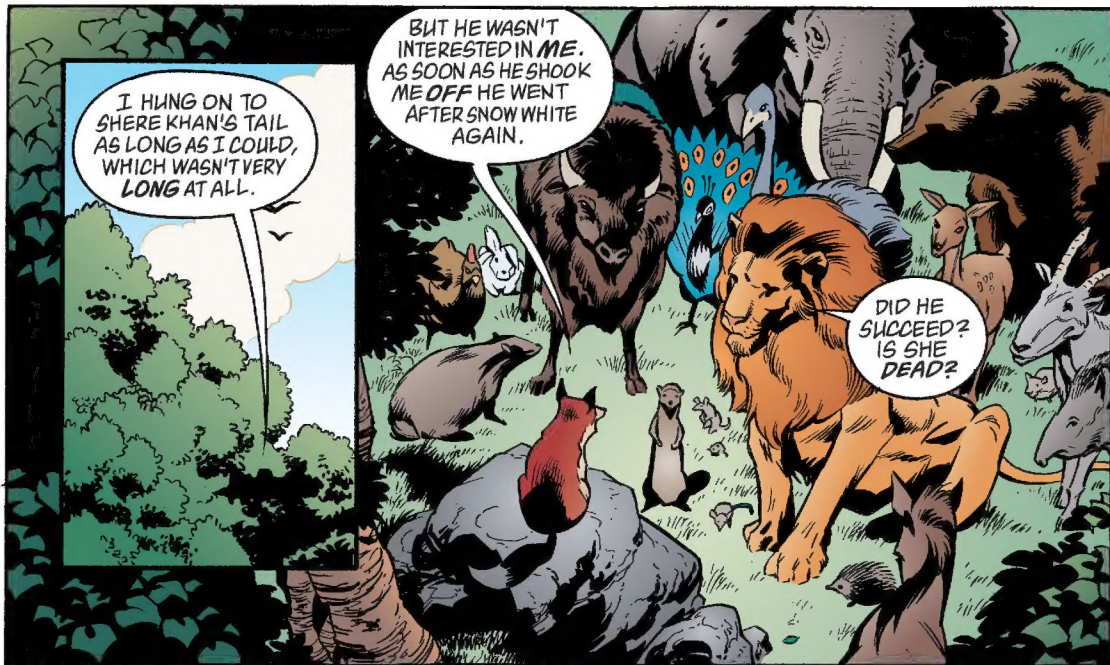
FORCED HOW?

SOME SORT OF MAGICAL GEAS ATTACHED TO THE CHAIN AROUND MY ANKLE.

IT NOT ONLY PREVENTS ME FROM TRYING TO ESCAPE, BUT IT COMPELS ME TO DO THE WORK THEY WANT.







I HUNG ON TO SHERE KHAN'S TAIL AS LONG AS I COULD, WHICH WASN'T VERY LONG AT ALL.

BUT HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN ME. AS SOON AS HE SHOOK ME OFF HE WENT AFTER SNOW WHITE AGAIN.

DID HE SUCCEED? IS SHE DEAD?



I DON'T KNOW, KING NOBLE. MY DAILY RATION OF BRAVERY WAS ALREADY USED UP BY TRYING TO DISTRACT KHAN IN THE FIRST PLACE. AFTER THAT, WHEN THE TIGER WENT IN *ONE* DIRECTION, I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO GO IN THE *OTHER*.



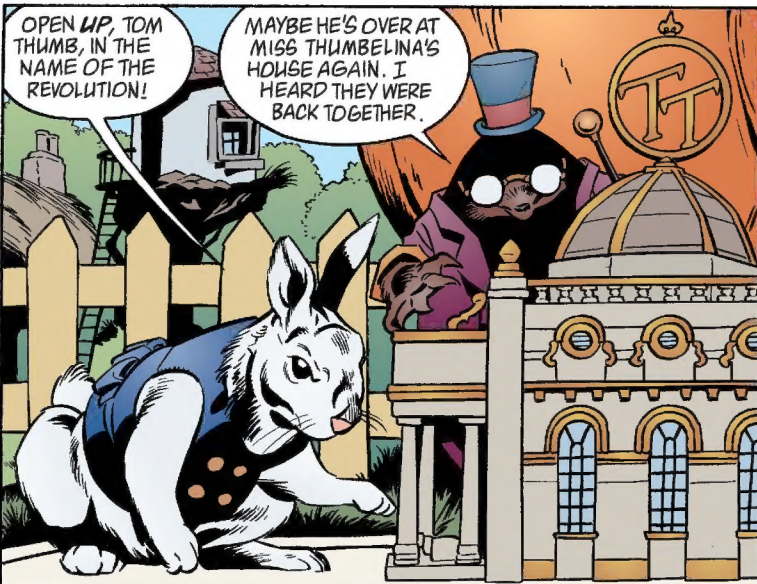
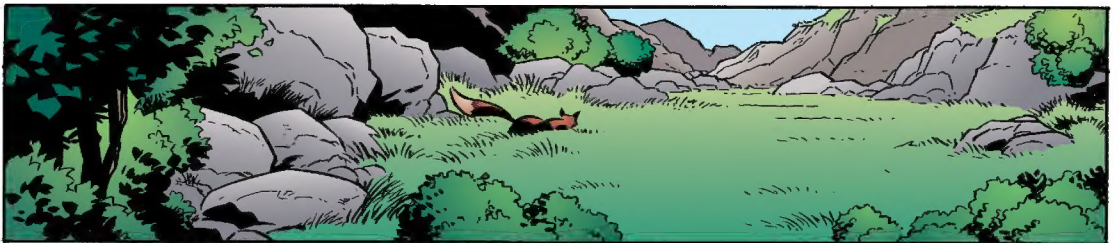
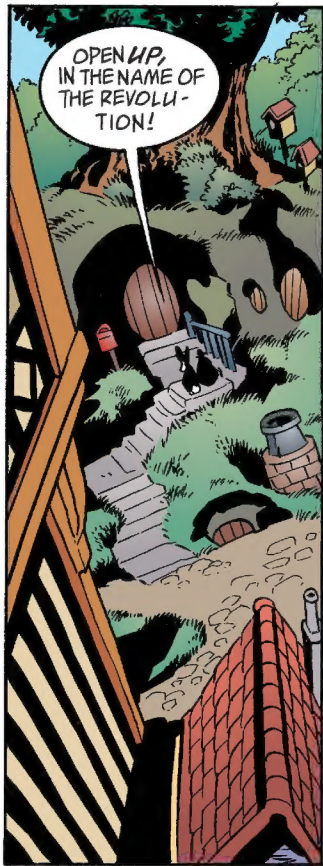
HOW MANY OF US REMAIN LOYAL?

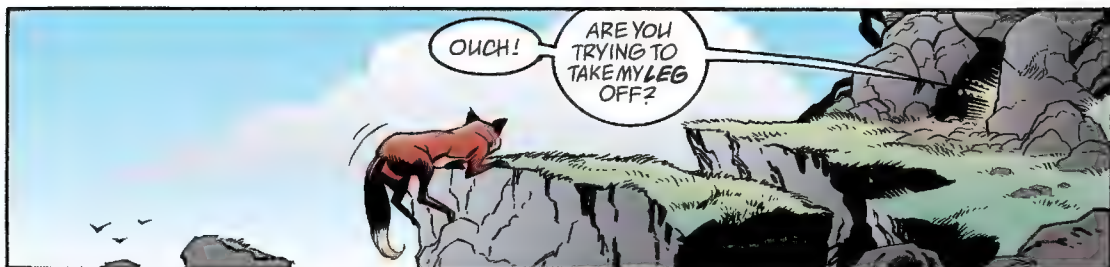
NOT MANY. THE BR'ER GROUP AND THE JUNGLE GROUP ARE WITH THE OTHER SIDE, ALONG WITH A FEW ASSORTED OTHERS. BUT THE MAJORITY IS STILL STRADDLING THE FENCE, WAITING TO SEE HOW IT ALL SHAKES OUT.



TRY TO FIND SNOW WHITE AGAIN. IF SHE'S ALIVE, WE'LL HANG ON. IF NOT, THE BEST WE CAN DO IS TO TRY TO ESCAPE THESE LANDS DURING THEIR MIDDAY RALLY.

NOT MUCH OF A PLAN, BUT IF THAT'S ALL WE'VE GOT...





OUCH!

ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE MY LEG OFF?



SORRY. I'VE NEVER BEEN HANDY WITH TOOLS.

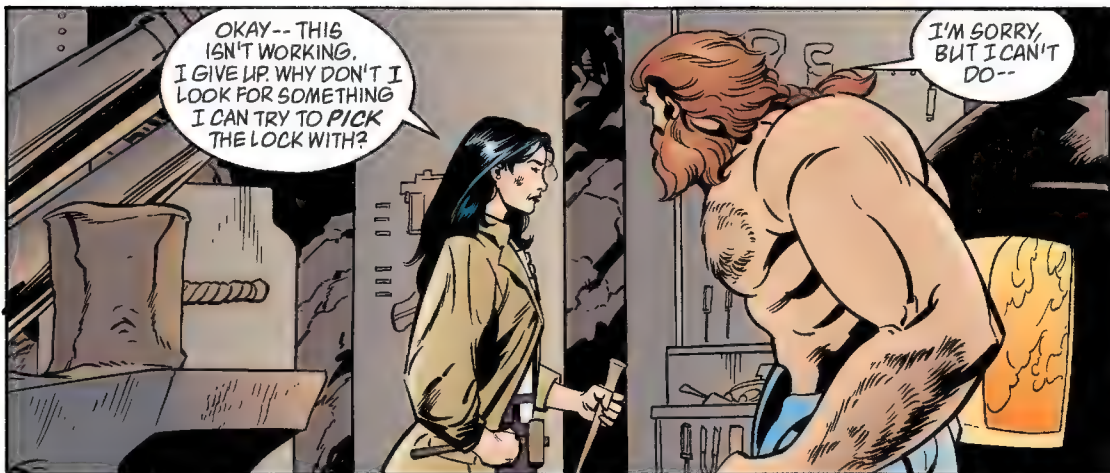
IT WOULD HELP IF THAT SPELL DIDN'T KEEP MAKING YOU FLINCH.



THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SPELL AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH SIMPLE SELF-PRESERVATION.



GIVE ME A BREAK. I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN.



OKAY-- THIS ISN'T WORKING. I GIVE UP. WHY DON'T I LOOK FOR SOMETHING I CAN TRY TO PICK THE LOCK WITH?

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T DO--



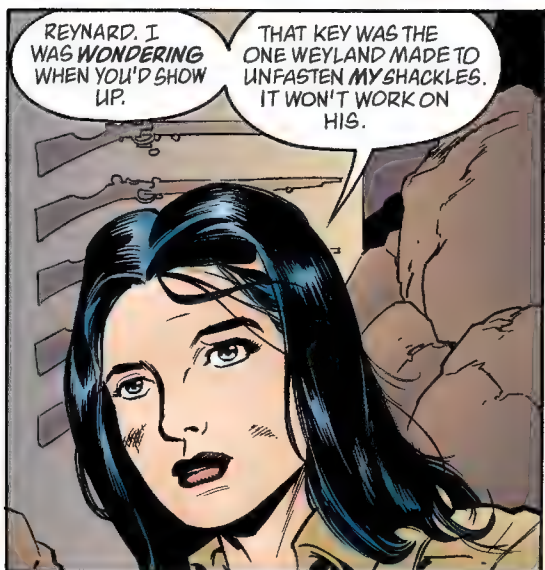
YEAH, I KNOW. SHUT UP.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS KEY LYING HERE?



HUH?

OR HAVE YOU ALREADY TRIED IT, SNOW BUNNY?

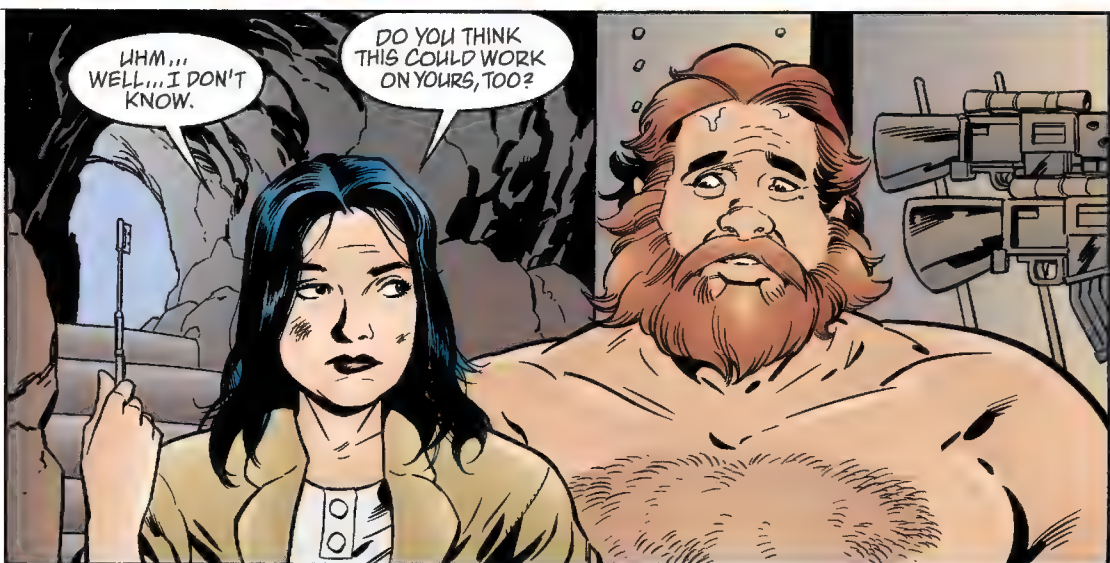


REYNARD, I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP.

THAT KEY WAS THE ONE WEYLAND MADE TO UNFASTEN MY SHACKLES. IT WON'T WORK ON HIS.



WHY NOT? THE LOCKS LOOK THE SAME.



UHM... WELL... I DON'T KNOW.

DO YOU THINK THIS COULD WORK ON YOURS, TOO?



I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING, BY WORD OR DEED, TO HELP YOU SET ME FREE.



OH MY GOODNESS, YOU SNEAKY BASTARD. DID YOU FIND A LOOP-HOLE TO LET YOU MAKE YOUR OWN ESCAPE KEY?

I'M SORRY, BUT--



PLEASE STOP SAYING THAT.



TREAT ALL MY QUESTIONS AS RHETORICAL UNTIL I GET YOU OUT OF THIS DAMNED--

SNAP



THERE WE GO!

IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, YOU DAFT WOMAN!

WERE YOU REALLY DETERMINED TO TRY EVERY TOOL IN THE PLACE BEFORE IT OCCURRED TO YOU TO TRY THE KEY I LEFT SITTING RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE?



YOU'RE ALLOWED **ONE** RUDE COMMENT DUE TO THE OBVIOUS FRUSTRATIONS OF BEING CAPTIVE FOR SO LONG. BUT DON'T **PUSH IT**.

KIDS, THIS REALLY ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO ARGUE.



THE FOX IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO MOVE FAST, BEFORE THIS RIDICULOUS ANIMAL REVOLUTION GOES ANY FURTHER.

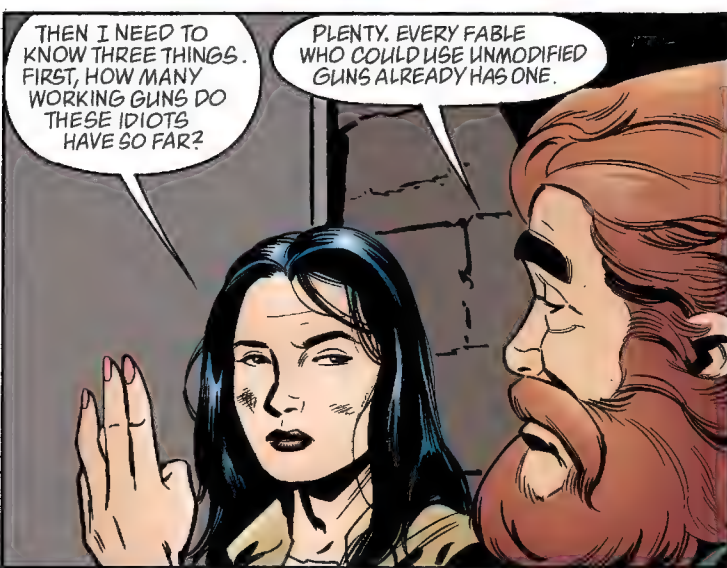
YOU HAVE A PLAN, PRINCESS?



POSSIBLY.

WEYLAND, CAN YOU ANSWER QUESTIONS NOW?

YES.



THEN I NEED TO KNOW THREE THINGS. FIRST, HOW MANY WORKING GUNS DO THESE IDIOTS HAVE SO FAR?

PLENTY. EVERY FABLE WHO COULD USE UNMODIFIED GUNS ALREADY HAS ONE.



WHAT ABOUT ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS? WHAT DO THEY HAVE AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE HERE TO WORK WITH?

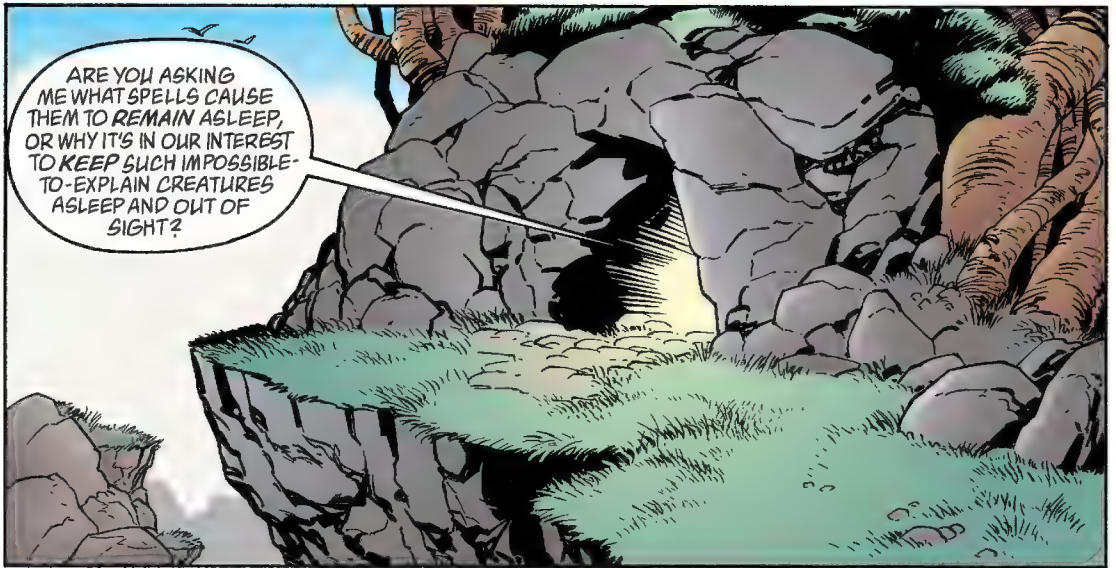


THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH OF ANYTHING YET. LIKE AMATEUR SOLDIERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THEY MADE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING WEAPONS ACQUISITION BEFORE COMMUNICATIONS.



WE'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF ELECTRONICS HERE, WHICH I WAS INSTRUCTED TO START MODIFYING ONLY AFTER I COMPLETED ALL THE GUNS. WHAT DO YOU NEED?

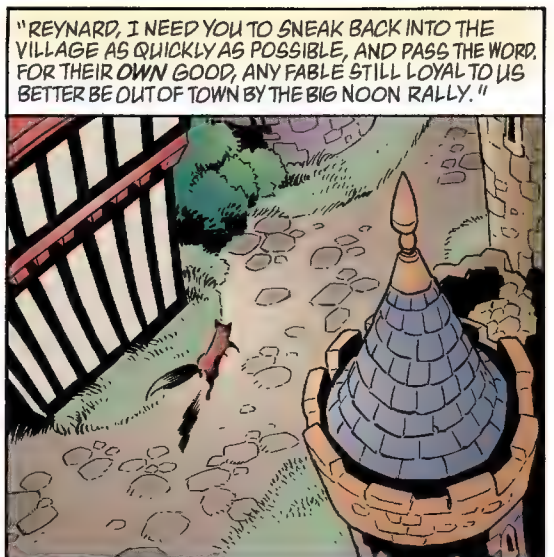
WE'LL GET TO THAT. NEXT, TELL ME ABOUT THE BIG SLEEPERS. WHY DO THEY SLEEP FOR SO LONG?



ARE YOU ASKING ME WHAT SPELLS CAUSE THEM TO REMAIN ASLEEP, OR WHY IT'S IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP SUCH IMPOSSIBLE-TO-EXPLAIN CREATURES ASLEEP AND OUT OF SIGHT?



"NEITHER, REALLY. I'M ASKING WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO WAKE THEM."



"REYNARD, I NEED YOU TO SNEAK BACK INTO THE VILLAGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND PASS THE WORD. FOR THEIR OWN GOOD, ANY FABLE STILL LOYAL TO US BETTER BE OUT OF TOWN BY THE BIG NOON RALLY."



FRIENDS! FREE FABLES!

THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST! SOON--AS SOON AS WE CAN ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION--WE'LL BE MOVING IN ON THE NEW YORK CITY FABLETOWN. ONCE WE CONTROL THAT, WE'LL BEGIN OPEN TRAINING FOR THE INVASION OF AND LIBERATION OF OUR HOMELANDS!

THE TIME IS NOW! OUR DESTINY WAITS ONLY FOR EACH OF US TO REACH OUT AND CLAIM IT!



HEY, WHAT'S THAT?

SOMEONE'S COMING!

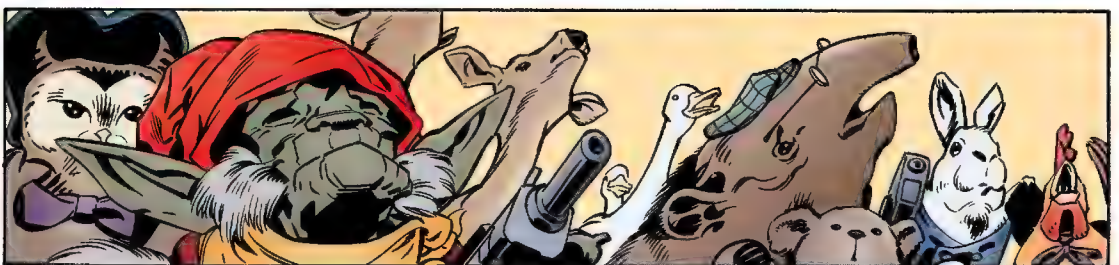
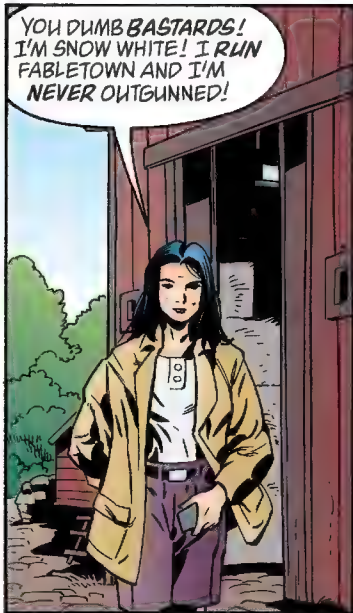


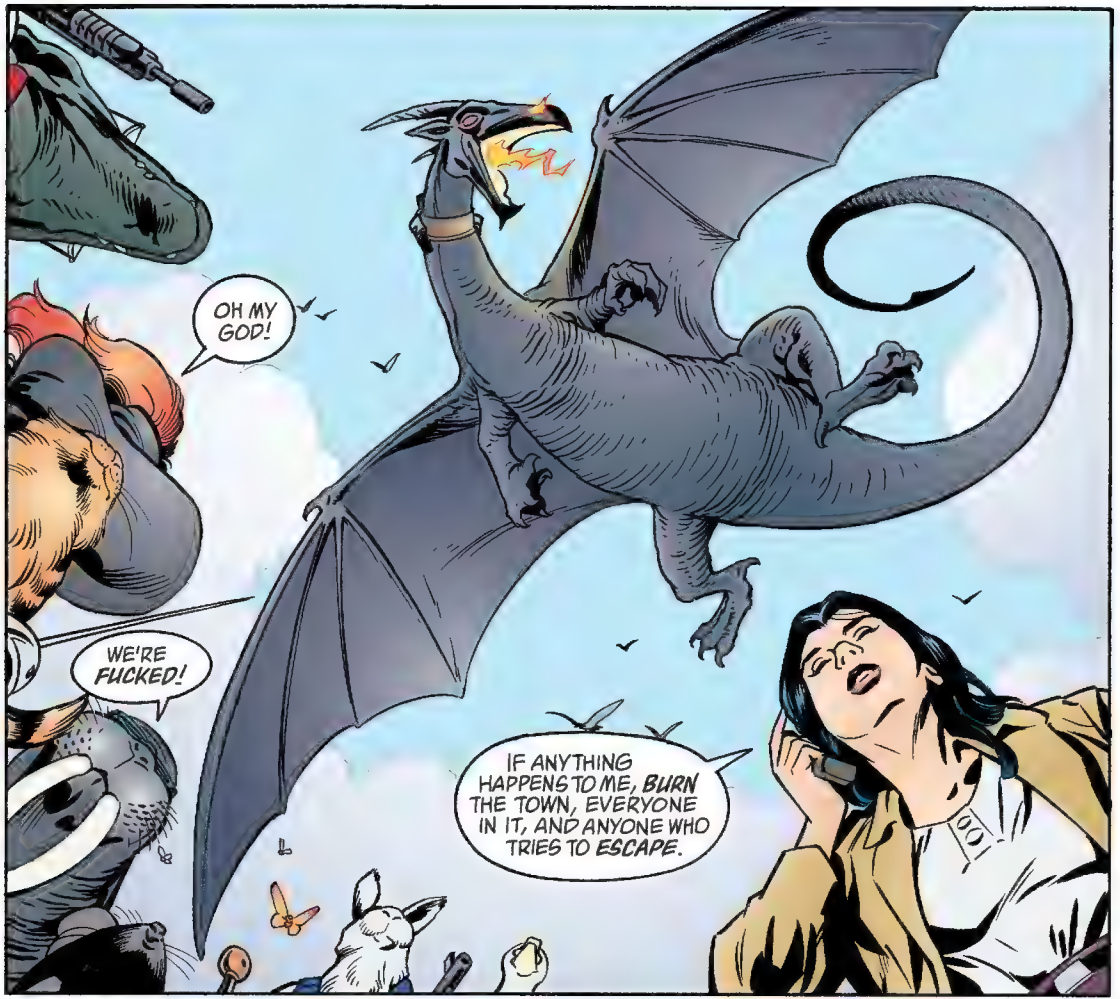
"IT'S SNOW WHITE!"



SAY THE WORD, DUN, AND I CAN DROP HER WITH ONE SHOT.

HOLD YOUR FIRE, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! SHE'S GOT A WHITE FLAG!

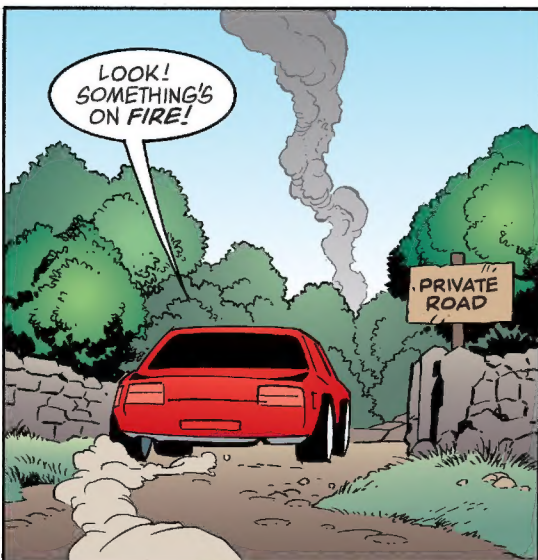
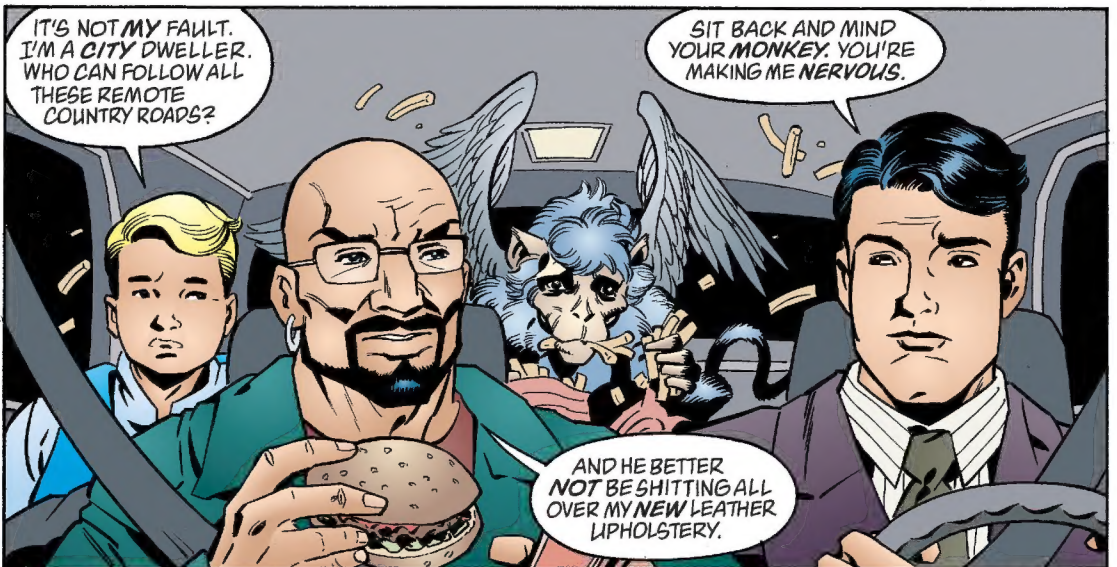


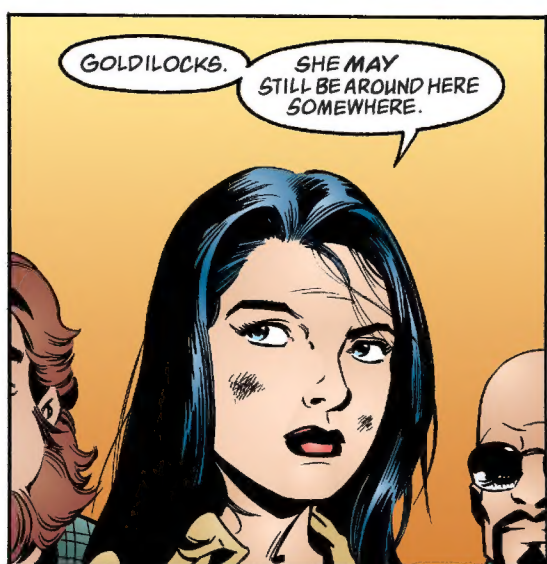
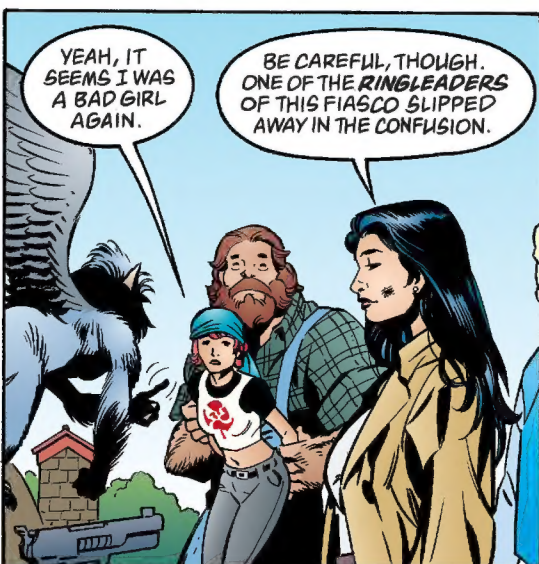
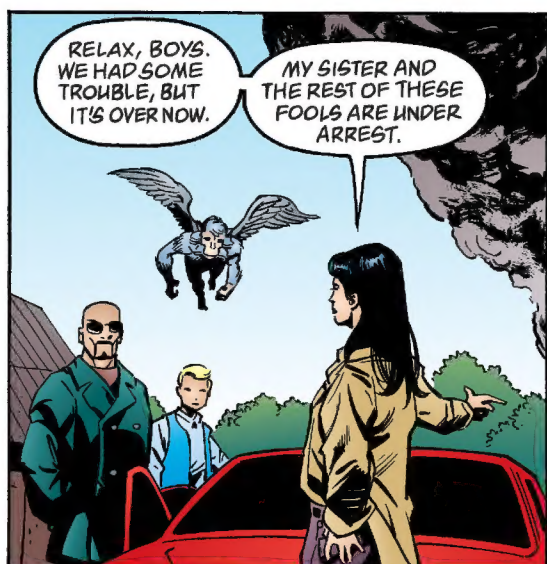


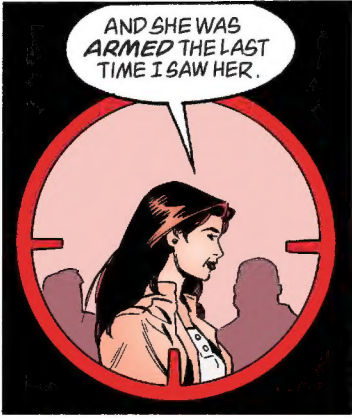


NOW, FOR THE LAST TIME, DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND DISPERSE!

IT'S OVER! YOU LOST! GO HOME!









NATHAN